UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,002	11/24/2003	Jean-Emile Elien	MSFT-2752/302033	5648

41505   7590   10/29/2007
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR
2929 ARCH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891

EXAMINER
CAO, PHUONG THAO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2164	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/29/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is in response to Amendment filed on 8/30/2007.

2.   There are no amendments to claims. Currently, claims 1-21 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments filed on 08/30/2007 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive.

Regarding Applicant's argument (page 6 of 9) that Upton does not teach or suggest a

single user interface for management and setup of an adapter, Examiner respectfully disagrees.

In fact, application views are not interpreted as unified user interface. According to Upton, in

paragraph [0036], adapters access a backend EIS system (application) through application views,

and user can configure adapters' access to application by defining their associated application

views through a Web-based interface wherein the Web-based interface is interpreted as a user

interface. In addition, Upton teaches in paragraph [0077] that all adapters can use a similar Web-

based interface for defining application views wherein defining application views which define

how adapters access the backend system is interpreted as management and setup of adapters and

a similar Web-based interface is interpreted as a single user interface.

Regarding Applicant's argument (page 7 of 9, paragraphs 2-3) that Upton teaches away

from having a single user interface based on the teaching against a "one size fits all' approach to

the application view (see Upton, [0038]), this argument is invalid since the Web-based interface

(see Upton, [0077]) used to define application views of adapters instead of application view is

interpreted as single user interface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the

claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out

the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)

and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6.   Claims 1-21 (effective filing date 11/24/2003) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over <u>Zou et al.</u> ("Web-Based Specification and Integration of Legacy

Services", IBM Press: 2000) in view of <u>Upton</u> (Publication No US 2003/0093471, effective date

10/18/2001).

         As to claim 1, <u>Zou et al.</u> teach:

         "A computer-implemented system for providing a standardized adapter framework" (see

<u>Zou et al.</u>, Abstract and [page 3, column 2, paragraph 2-3]), comprising:

         "a configuration user interface module for receiving a configuration schema describing

configuration information for an adaptor, wherein the configuration user interface module

display a single unified user interface for interfacing with any adaptor" (see <u>Zou et al.</u>, [page 8,

Figures 8 and 9] for the disclosure of Web interface of the service search engine designed to

receiving a search specification wherein interface of the search specifications can be considered

as a configuration schema that describes the configuration of a search query; and a Web interface

of the service search engine which allows users to search for software services wherein each

software service represents an adapter and the Web interface can be considered as a single

unified user interface to all adaptors as illustrated in <u>Applicant</u>'s claim language; also see <u>Zou et

al.</u>, [page 7] and [page 8, Figure 7] wherein service interface description is equivalent to

configuration information for an adaptor to that service);

         "a metadata utility for automated discovery of service descriptions, the metadata utility

receiving at least one metadata file providing data interface information and service description

information" (see <u>Zou et al.</u>, [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] wherein the service management

module is equivalent to Applicant's "metadata utility", "description information in XML form"

is equivalent to Applicant's "metadata file", and the automated receiving by the service

management module the description information in XML form automatically send from object

wrapper [page 4, column 2, paragraph 3] is equivalent to Applicant's "automated discovery of

service descriptions"); and

"generating from the configuration schema and the metadata file a configuration file and

a service selection file required by an adaptor to connect to an application" (see Zou et al., [page

7, column 2, paragraph 2] and [page 7, column 1, paragraph 2] wherein service description or

XML encoded service interface description is equivalent to Applicant's "configuration file",

"table to index the service ID and the corresponding XML service description" is equivalent to

Applicant's "service selection file", and the service description is used to access to a software

service [page 8, column 1, paragraph 3]; also see Zou et al., [page 4, column 2, paragraph 3] and

[page 9, column 1, paragraph 2-4]).

However, Zou et al. does not teach a single user interface for management and setup of

the adaptor, thereby eliminating a need for a user to learn to use multiple user interfaces for

adaptors.

On the other hand, Upton teaches a single user interface for management and setup of the

adaptor, thereby eliminating a need for a user to learn to use multiple user interfaces for adaptors

(see Upton, [0043], [0036] and [0033] for the user interfaces or web-based interfaces that allows

user to define (setup) application views of an adapter wherein the user interfaces associated with

the integration framework utilizing (managing and setting up) many adapters is equivalent to

single user interface as illustrated in Applicant's claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the inventions was made to incorporate the teaching of Upton to the Zou et al.'s system by adding the function of providing a single user interface for management and setup of adaptor. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to so do as suggested by Upton (see [0032] and [0033]) to simplify the process of managing and utilize software adapters and effectively enhance the functionality of the system. In addition, both of the references (Zou et al. and Upton) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, service or application integration, application interface and adapter and integration framework. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

As to claim 2, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the configuration schema comprises a XML schema" (see Zou et al., [page 2, column 2, paragraph 2], [page 5, column 2, paragraph 1] and Fig. 4).

As to claim 3, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the at least one metadata file comprises a WSDL file" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] wherein service description information in XML form is equivalent to

WSDL file since WSDL is defined as an XML format to describe network services; also see

[page 5, column 1, paragraph 1] and Fig. 4).

As to claim 4, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the at least one metadata file comprises an XML schema" (see Zou et al., [page

9, column 2, paragraph 4] and Fig. 11 wherein XML interface representation is equivalent to

Applicant's "metadata file comprises an XML schema"; also see Fig. 6).

As to claim 5, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"further comprising a data store for storing the configuration file" (see Zou et al., [page 7,

column 1, paragraph 2-3] wherein "XML encoded service interface description" or "XML

document" is equivalent to Applicant's "configuration file" and database is equivalent to

Applicant's "data store").

As to claim 6, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"further comprising a data store for storing the service selection file" (see Zou et al.;

[page 7, column 1, paragraph 2 wherein database is equivalent to Applicant's "data store" and

"table to index the service ID and the corresponding XML service description" is equivalent to

Applicant's "service selection file").

As to claim 7, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the configuration file is an XML file" (see Zou et al., [page 2, column 2,

paragraph 2] and [page 7, column 1, paragraph 2-3] wherein XML document including

configuration information [page 6, column 1, paragraph 1] is equivalent to Applicant's

"configuration file").

As to claim 8, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein a unified user interface is generated from the configuration schema and the at

least one metadata file" (see Zou et al., [page 7, column 2, paragraph 3] wherein available facts

and the DTD of each fact as disclosed [also see page 5] equivalent to Applicant's "configuration

schema and the at least one metadata file").

As to claim 9, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein information entered via the unified user interface is stored in the configuration file" (see Zou et al., [page 7] wherein the service description is equivalent to Applicant's "configuration file" since it configures how to access to services, and the disclosure of the service description generated automatically from the information provided by the user is equivalent to Applicant's claim language).

As to claim 10, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 8 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein information entered via the unified user interface is stored in the service selection file" (see Zou et al., [page 7] wherein "table to index the service ID and corresponding XML service description" is equivalent to Applicant's "the service selection file", and the disclosure of inserting service description generated from user input into the index table is equivalent to Applicant's claim language).

As to claim 11, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 2 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the XML schema is received from the adaptor associated with the configuration

file" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2-3] wherein "description information in XML

form" is equivalent to Applicant's "XML schema" and see [page 4, column 3, paragraph 3]

wherein CORBA object wrapper is equivalent to Applicant's "adaptor").

As to claim 12, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1

and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the at least one metadata file is received from the adaptor associated with the

configuration file" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] and [column 10, column 1,

paragraph 1] wherein description information in XML form including self-description

information (metadata) is equivalent to Applicant's "metadata file").

As to claim 13, Zou et al. teach:

"A method for providing a standardized adaptor framework" (see Zou et al., Abstract,

[page 3, column 2, paragraph 3] and [page 7, column 2, paragraph 2-3]), comprising:

"receiving a description of configuration data associated with an adaptor via automated

discovery of service descriptions" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] wherein

description information is equivalent to Applicant's "description of configuration data", and see

[page 4, column 2, paragraph 3] wherein each CORBA object wrapper is equivalent to

Applicant's "adaptor", and the automated receiving by the service management module the

description information in XML form automatically send from object wrapper [page 4, column 2, paragraph 3] is equivalent to Applicant's "automated discovery of service descriptions");

"generating an adapter-specific user interface from the configuration data description, wherein the adaptor-specific user interface is displayed as a single unified user interface for interface with any adaptor" (see Zou et al., [page 7, column 2, paragraph 3] wherein the user interface generated dynamically according to available facts and the DTD of each fact is equivalent to Applicant's "adapter-specific user interface" and the DTD of each fact [page 7, column 1, paragraph 2] is equivalent to Applicant's "configuration data description"; also see [page 8, column 2] for the teaching of a Web interface of the service search engine which allows users to search for software services wherein each software service represents an adapter and the Web interface can be considered as a single unified user interface to all adaptors as illustrated in Applicant's claim language);

"receiving instance-specific data from the adaptor-specific user interface" (see Zou et al., [page 7, column 2, paragraph 3] wherein selecting required facts from the interface implies the receiving of information relating to those facts as illustrated in Applicant's claim language); and

"saving the instance-specific data and the description of configuration data in an XML file" (see Zou et al., [page 6, column 1, paragraph 1] and [page 7, column 1-2] wherein description facts is equivalent to Applicant's "instance-specific data", XML encoded service interface description or the whole XML document including independent facts as disclosed is equivalent to Applicant's "XML file", and the disclosure of the ability to insert a new service description and interface to accept user input of description facts implies the saving of data as illustrated in Applicant's claim language).

However, <u>Zou et al.</u> does not teach wherein the configuration data is used for management and setup of the adaptor and thereby eliminating a need for a user to learn to use multiple user interfaces for adaptors.

On the other hand, <u>Upton</u> teaches wherein the configuration is used for management and set up of the adaptor and thereby eliminating a need for a user to learn to use multiple user interfaces for adaptors (see <u>Upton</u>, [0043], [0036] and [0033] for the user interfaces or web-based interfaces that allows user to define (setup) application views of an adapter wherein the user interfaces associated with the integration framework utilizing (managing and setting up) many adapters is equivalent to single user interface as illustrated in <u>Applicant</u>'s claim language).

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the inventions was made to incorporate the teaching of <u>Upton</u> to the <u>Zou et al.</u>'s system by adding the function of using configuration data for management and setup of adaptor. A skilled artisan would have been motivated to so do as suggested by <u>Upton</u> (see [0032] and [0033]) to simplify the process of managing and utilize software adapters and effectively enhance the functionality of the system. In addition, both of the references (<u>Zou et al.</u> and <u>Upton</u>) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, service or application integration, application interface and adapter and integration framework. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

As to claim 14, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

<u>Zou et al.</u> and <u>Upton</u> teach:

"saving the XML file in a data store" (see Zou et al., [page 7, column 1, paragraph 2-3]

wherein XML encoded service interface description is equivalent to Applicant's "XML file" and

database is equivalent to Applicant's "data store").

As to claim 15, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the description of configuration data is an XML schema" (see Zou et al., Fig. 4

and [page 5]).

As to claim 16, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"further comprising receiving information associated with data interface and service

description" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] for the disclosure of the service

management module receiving description information in XML form which includes interface

information and service description of a software component as illustrated in Applicant's claim

language).

As to claim 17, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

16 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"wherein the information associated with data interface and service description is a

WSDL specification" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] wherein service

description information in XML form is equivalent to WSDL specification since WSDL is

defined as an XML format to describe network services; also see [page 5, column 1, paragraph 1]

and Fig. 4).

As to claim 18, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

13 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"further comprising receiving a message associated with an application request" (see Zou

et al., [page 4, column 1, paragraph 3] wherein request for a servlet is equivalent to Applicant's

"message associated with an application request").

As to claim 19, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

14 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"further comprising receiving a message associated with an application request and

selecting an XML file from the data store, the XML file associated with the application request"

(see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 3-4] and [page 7, column 1, paragraph 2-3] wherein

service request is equivalent to Applicant's "message associated with an applicant's request",

and XML document must be selected from service repository to localize requested service as

disclosed in [page 8, column 1, paragraph 3]).

As to claim 20, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim

19 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Zou et al. and Upton teach:

"further comprising sending the XML file to the adaptor" (see Zou et al., [page 13,

column 2, paragraph 1] wherein script encoded in XML is equivalent to Applicant's "XML file"

and this script must be sent to the adaptor of the service to invoke the service; also see [page 3,

column 2, paragraph 3]).

As to claim 21, the combination of Zou et al. and Upton teaches:

"A computer storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions" (see Zou et

al., Abstract) for:

"receiving a description of configuration data associated with an adaptor via automated

discovery of service descriptions, wherein the configuration data is used for management and

setup of the adaptor" (see Zou et al., [page 9, column 1, paragraph 2] wherein description

information is equivalent to Applicant's "description of configuration data", and see [page 4,

column 3, paragraph 3] wherein CORBA object wrapper is equivalent to Applicant's "adaptor",

and the automated receiving by the service management module the description information in

XML form automatically send from object wrapper [page 4, column 2, paragraph 3] is equivalent

to Applicant's "automated discovery of service descriptions"; see Upton, [0043], [0036] and

[0033] for the user interfaces or web-based interfaces that allows user to define (setup)

application views of an adapter wherein the user interfaces associated with the integration

framework utilizing (managing and setting up) many adapters is equivalent to single user

interface as illustrated in Applicant's claim language);

"generating an adapter-specific property page from the configuration data description"

(see Zou et al., [page 7, column 2, paragraph 3] and [page 5] wherein the user interface generated

dynamically according to available facts and the DTD of each fact is equivalent to Applicant's

"adapter-specific property page" and the DTD of each fact [page 7, column 1, paragraph 2] is

equivalent to Applicant's "configuration data description");

"receiving instance-specific data from the property page" (see Zou et al., [page 7, column

2, paragraph 3] wherein Web interface is equivalent to Applicant's "property page" and selecting

required facts from the interface implies the receiving those information as illustrated in

Applicant's claim language); and

"displaying a single unified user interface for interfacing with any adaptor, thereby

eliminating a need for a user to use multiple user interfaces for adaptors" (see Zou et al., [page 8,

column 2] for the teaching of a Web interface of the service search engine which allows users to

search for software services wherein each software service represents an adaptor and the Web

interface can be considered as a single unified user interface to all adaptors as illustrated in

Applicant's claim language; also see Upton, [0043], [0036], [0033] and [0077] for the user

interfaces or web-based interfaces that allows user to define (setup) application views of an

adapter wherein the similar Web-based interfaces allow all adapters associated with the

integration framework to define their associated application views is equivalent to single user

interface as illustrated in Applicant's claim language).

Conclusion

7.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing
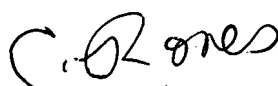
date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Phuong-Thao Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2735.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon - Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Phuong-Thao Cao
Art Unit 2164
October 16, 2007

CHARLES RONES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER